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# COUNTDOWN 2.1

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA  
AREA ASSOCIATION OF ROCKETRY, NAR SECTION #503



December, 2024

## Club Officers

### **President:**

*Tom Aument*

### **Vice President:**

*Bob Wicker*

### **Section Advisor:**

*Glenn Feveryear*

### **Treasurer:**

*Larry Gerlach*

### **Secretary:**

*Louise Aument*

### **Member at Large:**

*Mark Sternat*

### **Website:**

*Tony Rossi*

## Club Contact

[www.spaar.org](http://www.spaar.org)

**SPAAR**

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## Happy Holidays!!

December is a time of family and giving and joy. It is also a time of remembrance and reflection. While we rejoice with family and friends and plan for a prosperous 2025, let's be thankful for the memories and good times we shared with those who are no longer with us.



## Let's give a newsletter another try!

Researching the archives of the SPAAR web site, it is revealed that we had a newsletter from 1988 through 2002. It was started by George Beever and he did an amazing job. There were several others that continued it through the years and also put out fantastic results. I **highly** recommend 'paging' through some of the old editions. There is a lot of wonderful information and it's a real treat to feel the development and evolution of SPAAR through the years. I make no promises and offer no illusions of reproducing the magic of the past editions. I will try to make it interesting and offer info specifically as it relates to SPAAR and its members. I aim to do a couple a year and add some launch and meeting specifics as we go.

The next pages are geared to give a report on where we are and where we might be going, Its # 1 of version 2, so its not going to be very polished.

This will also serve as my first outreach for any advice, articles, pictures and information to make the newsletter as useful as possible.

## Countdown Legacy

As I paged through the old Countdowns, it became obvious that John Yost and Glenn Feveryear have made huge contributions to the club over the years and deserve a shout out! There are others who have as well, but John and Glenn are the only 2 who are still active. The club owes them a lot.

Old Countdowns included a lot of detail that is now stored / posted on the club website. Meeting minutes, Launch statistics and membership is available by visiting **[www.spaar.org](http://www.spaar.org)**. I will try to provide some launch details along the way, but actual flight data will be on the website.

Here is my second request for 'articles' and info. If you have anything you'd like included in a newsletter, please reach out to me.

I can be reached at [robertwicker@yahoo.com](mailto:robertwicker@yahoo.com)

Thanks! Bob

## 2024 Review and Highlights

We have a pretty active club. SPAAR has meetings (mostly on-line zoom), launches, and members assist in the community with Civil Air Patrol, TARC teams, Scouts, school demos and more. SPAAR is represented in regional and national contests and other NAR events. Below are some 2024 details.

### **There were 8 board meetings in 2024.**

February, April, June, August, September, October, November and December.

We have 58 active membership units and a solid financial balance.

Most memberships renew at the end of the year, so please contact Larry if you are 'delinquent' or have any questions. (Before Larry finds you. Just saying...)

### **We had 9 launches.**

April 6th (13 launched rockets), April 27 (43), May 11 (27), June 22 (22), July 27 (112), September 14 (113), October 12 (24), November 9 (32) and December 7 (25). That's a total of 411 for the year.

Launches are run smoothly but we can always use additional help with the range. Don't be afraid, some one will show you the ropes if needed.

Since we are talking about launches..... Please take a few minutes to view the YouTube NAR Safety video at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnDSWKsYVdg&t=59s>



## 2025 Schedule

There are 8 board meetings and 11 launches scheduled.



### 2025 Proposed Schedule

#### January

24-26, NARCON 2025 (Virtual)

#### February

Sat 8 Breakfast at Tony's (9-12)

#### March

Sat 1 Clean trailer STO (10 AM)

Sat 8 Launch MAN (1-4)

#### April

Sat 5 Launch MAN (1-4)

Mon 7 Meeting ZOOM (6-8)

Sun 20 Easter

Sat 26 Launch HAL (10-4)

#### May

Sat 10 Launch ZELL (9-4)

Sat 17 TARC

#### June

Mon 9 Meeting ZOOM (6-8)

Sat 21 Launch ZELL (9-2)

23– 27, NARAM-66

#### July

Sat 26 Launch HAL (10-4)

#### August

Mon 4 Meeting ZOOM (6-8)

Sat 16 Launch ZELL (9-4)

#### September

Mon 8 Meeting ZOOM (6-8)

Sat 13 Launch HAL (10-4)

#### October

Mon 6 Meeting ZOOM (6-8)

Sat 11 Launch MAN (1-4)

#### November

Sat 8 Launch MAN (1-4)

Mon 10 Meeting ZOOM (6-8)

#### December

Sat 6 Launch MAN (1-4)

Mon 8 Meeting STO (6-8)

## 2025 National Rocketry Competition

Competition can be daunting to get started, but if you start with one or two of the simpler events, I have found its not a steep learning curve (if you expect to win... that is a VERY different curve!!!) and is very satisfying. It provides a whole new angle to rocketry and opens a whole new set of opportunities to learn and expand skills. SPAAR has a couple members who fly competition. They are available to help get you started and offer tips and advice to make it a very enjoyable experience. Give it a try!!!!

**NRC Events for 2024-2025 contest year are:**

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>RECORD</b>
1/2 A Streamer Duration (FAI)	
1/2 A Altitude	256m
A Payload Altitude	188m
B Rocket Glider Duration	176s
B Helicopter Duration	454s
D Dual Egg Lofting Altitude	483m

The contest year starts Aug 10, 2024 and end on June 11, 2025.

**NARAM-66** will be held June 23 thru June 27 at the AMA headquarters in Muncie Indiana and hosted by Pittsburgh Space Command (PSC)



SPAAR has lost some members over the last couple years who made everlasting memories and contributions to family, friends and rocketry.



**Dale Green** passed in February of 2017, Dale was an avid model rocket enthusiast. He joined the National Association of Rocketry (NAR) in the 1960's, was a charter member of SPAAR founded in 1988, also serving as president for over 15 years. He traveled across the country to seminars and competitions, becoming a nationally recognized name. He was an advocate of Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC) and enjoyed mentoring local high school clubs, Boy Scouts, and science clubs; including a Penn Manor team which won a TARC National competition in 2012 and went on to win the International competition.

**Ed Miller** passed January 2021. Ed was an avid car enthusiast, winning many awards at car shows. He enjoyed numerous hobbies including model rocketry, expert model building (cars, rockets, etc.), and cabinetry. He was well known for his attention to detail in all of these activities. He wrote a number of articles for model rocketry magazines regarding his building and painting methods.

**Dave Pinkerton** passed in April of 2022. He was an active participant in SPAAR and the National Toy Train Collectors Association.

**George Beever** passed in January of this year. George was one of the founding members of SPAAR. He began building and flying model rockets in 1968. George's contributions to SPAAR can not be over stated.

**Rick Hackman** passed this July. Rick was a member from the beginning of SPAAR and is well know for his creative scratch built rockets. All of Ricks launches were exciting. He left a MASSIVE collection behind to the club.

**All of these folks are SPAAR family and deeply missed. As we enjoy our family and friends this holiday season. Please keep their families in your thought and prayers.**